



RESOLUTION

URGING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO IMMEDIATELY REMOVE TRAFFIC "BULB-OUTS" FROM THE CHINATOWN SPECIAL DISTRICT.

WHEREAS, Honolulu's Chinatown district is unique among the City's neighborhoods because it has retained its historic sense of time and place, due to a combination of its historic buildings, ethnic population, types of shops and businesses, and overall ambiance; and

WHEREAS, in 1973, Honolulu's Chinatown was added to the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district; and

WHEREAS, the City established the Chinatown Special District as part of its Land Use Ordinance in order to preserve the historic significance and architectural characteristics of Chinatown in the face of pressures for redevelopment; and

WHEREAS, the City Administration recently installed curb extensions known as "bulb-outs" at a number of intersections of Chinatown; and

WHEREAS, these bulb-outs extend the curb line about seven feet into the roadway, using reddish-brown paint with white striping, white plastic stanchions, yellow U-shaped devices, blocky concrete-colored structures, and planters; and

WHEREAS, the bulb-outs substantially detract from the historic, architectural, and cultural sense of place of the Chinatown district; and

WHEREAS, area businesses report that the bulb-outs have adversely affected many of them through disrupted deliveries and customer access, and some businesses have experienced business losses of at least 20 percent since the beginning of July; and

WHEREAS, an awning renovation project involving the River of Life building at the intersection of Maunakea and Pauahi Streets has added to the disruption, with one traffic lane next to the building being closed between July 5, 2017 and September 15, 2017; and

WHEREAS, these economic effects are in direct conflict with one of the stated objectives of the Chinatown Special District, which is to help "promote the long-term economic viability of the Chinatown Special District as a unique community of retail, office and residential uses"; and



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WHEREAS, although the Administration has stated that the bulb-outs are a temporary pilot project, the Council is concerned that affected businesses may not survive even a short-term disruption; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it urges the City Administration to immediately remove the four bulb-outs at the Smith/Pauahi Streets intersection and the four bulb-outs at the Maunakea/Pauahi Streets intersection; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that before the Administration undertakes any further traffic-calming or complete streets measures for Chinatown, it consult with adjacent businesses and residents to determine possible impacts to deliveries, customer access, trash pick-ups, and vehicular access; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any future traffic-calming or complete streets measures for Chinatown be designed to be compatible with the historic, architectural, and cultural significance of the area; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to the Mayor, the Director of Transportation Services, and the Director of Planning and Permitting.

INTRODUCED BY:

Carol Fukunaga

Ann Kobayashi

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

July 28, 2017
Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers

CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII
CERTIFICATE

RESOLUTION 17-205, CD1

Introduced: 07/28/17 By: CAROL FUKUNAGA

Committee: BUSINESS, ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AND
TOURISM

Title: RESOLUTION URGING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO IMMEDIATELY REMOVE TRAFFIC "BULB-OUTS"
FROM THE CHINATOWN SPECIAL DISTRICT.


Voting Legend: * = Aye w/Reservations

08/03/17	SPECIAL BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM	CR-306 - RESOLUTION REPORTED OUT OF COMMITTEE FOR ADOPTION AS AMENDED IN CD1 FORM.
08/09/17	COUNCIL	CR-306 AND RESOLUTION 17-205, CD1 WERE ADOPTED 7 AYES: ANDERSON, FUKUNAGA, KOBAYASHI, MANAHAN, MARTIN, MENOR, PINE. 1 NO: ELEFANTE. 1 ABSENT: OZAWA.

I hereby certify that the above is a true record of action by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu on this RESOLUTION.



GLEN I. TAKAHASHI, CITY CLERK



RON MENOR, CHAIR AND PRESIDING OFFICER